

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-03 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00
ACDA-10 MCE-00 IGA-01 /047 W
-----044408 040359Z /61/66

R 021913Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECNAV WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3332
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 01226

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT GARBLED)

LIMDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES PLEASE TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR SECRETARY CLAYTOR AND ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH NAVY

1. RECOGNIZING YOUR CONSISTENTLY STRONG EFFORTS IN THE
PAST TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE SPANISH NAVY WHERE WE
CAN, I AM RELUCTANT TO PRESS YOU ONCE AGAIN TO REVIEW
WHERE WE STAND WITH THEM ON EQUIPMENT ISSUES. HOWEVER,
I SENSE THAT SOME FURTHER COMMUNICATION AT YOUR LEVEL WITH
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SPANISH NAVY WOULD BE TIMELY.

2. YOU ARE BOTH ALREADY VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE
ATTACHED BY SPANISH NAVY LEADERS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH
US TO THOSE ASPECTS OF THEIR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
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INVOLVING

-- CONSTRUCTION OF A SEA CONTROL SHIP AND 3 FFG FRIGATES,

-- OBTAINING FROM THE USN, IN FULFILLMENT OF TREATY
PROVISIONS, THE SUBMARINES SALMON, SAILFISH, AND DARTER,
AND THEIR HOPES TO OBTAIN AS PART OF THIS PACKAGE A

PAUL REVERE-CLASS LPA,
-- OBTAINING THE LATEST SEA SPARROW MISSILE FOR THEIR NEW
CORVETTES.
(THEIR EARLIER REQUEST FOR AN IWO JIMA - CLASS LPH, HAS
NOW BEEN SHELVED BECAUSE OF ITS UNAVAILABILITY BEFORE
1991.)

3. THE ISSUE OF THE DELIVERY DATES OF THE FFG'S BEING
LATER THAN DESIRED BY THE SPANISH NAVY (BECAUSE OF THE
LONG LEAD TIME FOR PROCUREMENT OF THE MK13 MISSILE
LAUNCHER) WAS RAISED BY VADM MATEU WITH SECRETARY CLAYTOR
ON 19 DECEMBER, AS WAS THE HOPED-FOR ACQUISITION OF AN
LPA, AT WHICH TIME SECRETARY CLAYTOR UNDERTOOK TO LOOK
FURTHER INTO BOTH MATTERS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND IS NOW PREPARING LOA'S ON
THE SCS AND FFG'S FOR PRESENTATION TO THE SPANISH NAVY
IN MAY. ASSUMING THESE PROVE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY
IN OTHER RESPECTS, STILL TO BE DEALT WITH WILL BE THE
TICKLISH 3RD COUNTRY SALES PROBLEM ATTACHED TO THE SCS,
AND THE STRONG SPANISH DESIRE FOR GREATER SPANISH
INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE FFG PROGRAM.

4. THUS, THERE IS NOW A RATHER LARGE PLATTER OF
UNRESOLVED MAJOR NAVY EQUIPMENT ISSUES BEFORE US. THE
MEMORANDUM I HAVE SEEN ON THE DECEMBER VISIT TO
WASHINGTON OF SPANISH NAVY OFFICIALS, DURING WHICH SOME
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OF THESE MATTERS WERE AIRED AT THE WORKING LEVEL, DID
NOT, I MUST SAY, GIVE ME STRONG CAUSE TO HOPE THAT WE
WERE NEAR A MEETING OF MINDS WITH THE SPANISH.

5. SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT
THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME QUESTION ON OUR PART ABOUT THE
MAINTENANCE OF THE SALE OFFER ALREADY MADE TO THE
SPANISH ON THE 3 SUBMARINES TO WHICH I ATTACH
CONTINUING IMPORTANCE.

6. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT I RECEIVED
SEVERAL DAYS AGO WORD FROM A FRIEND OF THE KING'S, WHO
HAD JUST HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM, THAT THE KING
HIMSELF IS NOW EXPRESSING MARKED UNHAPPINESS OVER WHAT
HE TOLD HIS FRIEND WAS THE UNSATISFACTORY ATTITUDE OF THE
U.S. IN THE MATTER, AS THE KING PUT IT, OF "SEVERAL
DESTROYERS" (PRESUMABLY THE FFG'S). QUITE APART FROM THE
VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR OWN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE
KING AND THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE USUALLY HAD
WITH THE SPANISH NAVY, IT IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO ME
POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE SPANISH MILITARY SERVICES, WHICH
AT THIS JUNCTURE IN SPANISH POLITICAL LIFE IS OF SUCH

GREAT IMPORTANCE. SPANISH MILITARY MORALE, ALREADY

SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE STRAINS BY THE DRAMATIC
POLITICAL CHANGES SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH, AND BY THE
EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE REFORMS IN THE
MILITARY AS WELL, IS AGGRAVATED AT THIS JUNCTURE ALSO BY
SEVERELY FELT BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES. IT IN LARGE
MEASURE FALLS ON THE KING TO KEEP THE SENIOR OFFICER
CORPS, STILL ALL HOLD-OVERS FROM THE LONG YEARS OF CIVIL
WAR AND OF FRANCO'S REIGN, SUPPORTIVE OF HIMSELF AND
THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION. HE IS A SUPPORTER
OF THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP AND SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00

ACDA-10 MCE-00 IGA-01 /047 W

-----019079 030245Z /66

R 021913Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECNAV WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 01226

LIMDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES PLEASE TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR SECRETARY CLAYTOR AND ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

AND WE MUST KEEP HIM THAT WAY.

7. I WOULD HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO REASSURE THE KING
THAT WE ARE TAKING THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE SPANISH NAVY
VERY SERIOUSLY AND DOING WHAT WE CAN TO SUPPORT HIS OWN
EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MILITARY REFORM AND
MODERNIZATION EFFORTS, LEST THESE ISSUES COME TO ASSUME
LARGER THAN LIFE PROPORTIONS FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.
ALSO USEFUL IN MY JUDGMENT WOULD BE A DIRECT
COMMUNICATION, VIA THIS EMBASSY, FROM SECRETARY CLAYTOR
OR ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY TO THE SPANISH CNO AREVALO TO

REASSURE HIM OF THE CLOSE ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO THESE
MATTERS. (THE ONE ISSUE APPARENTLY NOT YET RIPE FOR
MENTION IS THAT OF 3RD COUNTRY SALES OF THE SEA CONTROL
SHIP, ON WHICH THE U.S. POSITION IS STILL UNDER REVIEW
AND ON WHICH WE HOPE WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT SOME
FLEXIBILITY IS NEEDED. THIS MATTER HAS NOT BEEN BROACHED
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WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT SINCE JUNE 1976 WHEN THE
SPANISH WERE GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT 3RD COUNTRY SALES WOULD
BE POSSIBLE.)

8. WARM PERSONAL REGARDS TO YOU BOTH. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID01226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780059-0475, D780050-1068
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802101/aaaadhrv.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84d0cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3431373
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH NAVY
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SP, US
To: USN CNO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84d0cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014